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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Maintenance of international security: prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Macroeconomic policy questions: trade and development

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: integration of the economies in transition into the world economy; high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 20 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the New York Memorandum of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Republic of Uzbekistan, signed at their meeting on 6 September 2000 in New York (see annex I), as well as the text of the communiqué of that meeting (see annex II).

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We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter, and its annexes circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 39, 67 (a), 92 (a), 94 (b), 94 (d) and 164, and of the Security Council.

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Annex I to the letter dated 20 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

New York Memorandum of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Republic of Uzbekistan, hereinafter referred to as the GUUAM Group,

Taking into account the traditional relations of friendship, cooperation and mutually beneficial partnership between their countries and peoples, and *emphasizing* the aspiration for further development of these relations on the basis of the Strasbourg Communiqué and the Washington Declaration,

Reiterating their commitment to the fundamental norms and principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and respective documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in particular the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-use of force or threat of force, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs and inviolability of borders,

Stressing the need for developing, in their countries, a civil society based on the respect for the principles of democracy, rule of law, promotion and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering the restoration of the historic Silk Road, which links the East and the West, as an important factor in strengthening independence, security and stability of States and cooperation among them in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, the Black Sea, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the new millennium,

Condemning as unjustifiable any illegal acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including those that jeopardize friendly relations between States and peoples, endanger territorial integrity, security and stability of States, hamper international cooperation, result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and undermine democratic foundations of society,

Recognizing that one of the most important problems that poses a serious threat to stability and security both in the entire world and in the region of the Great Historic Silk Road is a problem of aggressive separatism, and *being gravely concerned* at the protracting of the conflict settlement processes in this region, and *confirming* their commitment to the settlement of these conflicts by peaceful means on the basis of respective resolutions of the United Nations and decisions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Noting the importance of integration processes and of collaboration between their States in cooperation with the European structures, including the European

Union, the Council of Europe, as well as in the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and NATO's "Partnership for Peace" programme,

Taking into account the urgent need to establish effective interstate — first and foremost, economic and intersectoral — relations with the view to improve the well-being of the peoples of their countries, as well as to intensify economic cooperation in the context of further integration of the GUUAM States into the system of international economic relations,

Considering particularly important unconditional application of the free trade principles on the basis of existing mechanisms of multilateral economic cooperation, which remain underutilized so far in the post-Soviet space,

Stressing the need for cooperation and concerted efforts of their States with the view to further developing the secure and effective Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport and communication corridor,

Noting the prospects of expanding, in the framework of the GUUAM Group, the humanitarian dimension on the basis of the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of the peoples of the participating States,

Have decided:

1. *To intensify* multilateral cooperation in the framework of GUUAM by giving it a multilevel character. To this end, it shall be expedient *to convene* regular summits at the level of Heads of State at least once a year, and meetings at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs at least twice a year;

2. *To entrust*, during the period between summits and ministerial meetings, the Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) with the task of coordinating the cooperation within the framework of GUUAM. The Committee shall hold its regular sessions on a quarterly basis and, when necessary, additional sessions upon the consent of all the parties;

3. *To consider*, among the cooperation priorities within the framework of GUUAM, the task of fostering favourable conditions conducive to economic growth and enhancing the well-being of the peoples of the participating States, promoting mutually beneficial trade relations among them on the basis of principles of free trade and close intersectoral cooperation and implementing complex multilateral programmes and projects in the field of production, commerce, energy, transport, economy, international credit and financial cooperation, border, customs and fiscal services, communications, science, technology, education and culture. To this end, direct contacts between different State bodies and departments of the respective agencies of the GUUAM Group member States shall be established;

4. *To promote* development and improvement, at different levels, of mechanisms of multilateral cooperation in the framework of GUUAM, including at the level of the executive and legislative branches, business circles, non-governmental and humanitarian organizations and mass media;

5. *To recognize* as a common top priority ensuring an effective functioning of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor, and the need to develop its infrastructure, as well as to ensure its reliability and security;

6. *To strengthen and improve* the mechanisms of consultations and coordination of actions within the framework of international organizations, and *to*

promote actively the practice of joint statements at various levels. In this connection, *to include* the question of establishing an international anti-terrorism centre in the programme of joint actions of GUUAM States in the United Nations;

7. To convene their next summit in the year 2001.

Done at New York, on 6 September 2000, in five copies in the English and Russian languages.

(*Signed*) Heydar **Aliyev**
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

(*Signed*) Eduard **Shevardnadze**
President of Georgia

(*Signed*) Petru **Lucinschi**
President of the Republic of Moldova

(*Signed*) Leonid **Kuchma**
President of Ukraine

(*Signed*) Islam **Karimov**
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Annex II to the letter dated 20 September 2000 from the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Communiqué of the meeting of the Presidents of the GUUAM Group in the framework of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations

A regular meeting of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Republic of Uzbekistan, hereinafter referred to as the GUUAM Group, was held in the framework of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations.

As an outcome of the meeting, the Presidents of the States of the GUUAM Group adopted the New York Memorandum, in which the parties agreed to intensify multilateral cooperation within the GUUAM framework by giving it a multilevel character, and adopted respective decisions.

Among major cooperation priorities within the GUUAM framework, the Head of States envisaged fostering favourable conditions conducive to economic growth, improving the well-being of the peoples of the participating States, further developing a safe and efficient Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport and communication corridor, as well as intensifying mutually beneficial trade relations among them on the basis of principles of free trade. To this end, the parties decided to undertake efforts with a view to establishing a free trade zone within the GUUAM.

The Presidents of the GUUAM Group expressed their grave concern at the protracting of the conflict settlement processes in the region and confirmed their commitment to the resolution of these conflicts by peaceful means on the basis of universally accepted principles of international law, resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Presidents strongly condemned aggressive separatism, terrorism and other illegal acts that jeopardize friendly relations between States and peoples, endanger territorial integrity, security and stability of States, hamper international cooperation, result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and undermine democratic foundations of society.

The parties expressed their support for the development of their cooperation within the framework of international organizations, forums, economic and trade blocs, with the view to more active participation in the global political and economic processes.

The Heads of State of the GUUAM Group express their confidence that further cooperation within the framework of the Group on the basis of the Strasbourg Communiqué, the Washington Declaration and the New York Memorandum will contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in their region and in adjacent areas, and full realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The Presidents noted with satisfaction that the Millennium Summit reconfirmed the central role of the United Nations in the global processes and expressed their hope that the significance of the United Nations in settling major problems of the humakind will be increased.